

the reason I say that is because the best foreign policy for the United States is to help people realize their full potential. That can be done through education—jobs.

The President and I had a long discussion this morning about issues that will help create jobs and facilitate the flow of trade, for example, all aiming at helping the people in our respective countries realize God-given potential. And so we come bringing the greetings of the people of the United States. Our Ambassador has briefed me on some of the programs that the taxpayers of my country have helped fund. But we're really interested in hearing your stories. And Colombia is a fine democracy. And the true test of a democracy is for every citizen in that country to be able to feel the full promise of society.

And so we thank you for coming. And, Mr. President, why don't we—we can go around the table, and I'm interested in hearing the different stories about the lives of some of your citizens.

Shall we start? How about you, doctor? Do you want to start?

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:28 p.m. at Casa de Narino. In his remarks, he referred to President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia; and U.S. Ambassador to Colombia William B. Wood.

### **Remarks Following a Tour of Labradores Mayas in Iximche, Guatemala**

*March 12, 2007*

[The President's remarks are joined in progress.]

—Mrs. Bush and I have been looking forward to meeting you, because you represent people who dream, people who work hard, and people who make wonderful products.

And there's two things I want to share. One, that USAID, which is funded through the generosity of the American people, is helping people like you all throughout the region to realize your dreams, because we believe in the dignity of every person. We want people to realize their God-given potential. You have proven that if given a

chance, you and hundreds of others can succeed, and that's what we want.

Secondly, free trade is important for a lot of people. It's important for our country, it's a gateway. It creates jobs in America just like it creates jobs here.

And so we thank you for your wonderful hospitality. We loved being with your families. *Gracias. Que Dios les bendiga.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:43 a.m. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony in Guatemala City, Guatemala**

*March 12, 2007*

**President Oscar Berger Perdomo of Guatemala.** Dear friends, welcome all. On behalf of my Government and on behalf of the people of Guatemala, I am pleased to welcome President George W. Bush, his wife, and his distinguished delegation in our country.

We celebrate that President Bush decided to include Guatemala in his tour throughout Latin America. We welcome you with affection in this multiethnic and plural-lingual country, where many cultures live together, where the strong features of modernity, and where, after a lengthy and painful conflict that divided us during 14 years, we are, with determination, following the path of reconciliation, in search for building a plural, democratic, tolerant, and participatory society.

Our historic relationship with the United States of America, at times troubled, date far back. We are pleased to confirm that in recent decades this relationship matured and is today characterized by further interactions that are respectful and broad in scope.

We share values, including, of course, representative democracy and social justice. We also share interests that through last year with the entry into force of the free trade agreement between the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic on the one hand, and the United States of America on the other hand.